



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

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TRINITY REPERTORY AWARDED GRANT FOR *SHAKESPEARE FOR A NEW GENERATION* PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Trinity Repertory Company has been awarded \$25,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for participation in the Endowment's *Shakespeare for a New Generation* program. The announcement was made today by U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee. The program will provide performances and educational activities for students in 25 high schools across the state during the 2005 – 2006 school year.

Trinity will implement a wide-ranging and inclusive arts education program, *Shakespeare for a New Generation: Hamlet in the Modern World*, which will provide participating students with an engaging learning process that brings the issues of *Hamlet* into the 21st century, making the play a tangible source of learning for today's youth. All education activities will surround the mainstage production of *Hamlet*, which will be produced as part of Trinity's 2005-2006 season.

"Appreciation for the great works of literature and the performing arts are essential components of a well-rounded education. With this funding, Trinity Rep. will be able to educate students on one of the great literary works of all-time, Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, and show students that this piece still has modern day applications," Senator Chafee said. "I am pleased that the National Endowment for the Arts has recognized the great contribution Trinity has made throughout the years to educate the youth of Rhode Island on the value of the performing arts. This award makes certain Trinity will continue to educate students in the academic year to come," he continued.

Hamlet in the Modern World will include three fundamental components for each of the twenty-five partnering schools:

- students and teachers will attend a fully professional, high quality, mainstage student matinee of *Hamlet*, performed at the theater by Trinity Rep's resident acting company;
- short-term artist residencies in each partner classroom will introduce students to Shakespeare and Shakespearian text; and
- extensive professional development offerings for teachers, allowing Trinity Rep to form partnerships with twenty-five area schools in underserved communities through the *Shakespeare for a New Generation* initiative

"We're very excited to participate in Shakespeare for a New Generation," said Amanda Dehnert, Trinity Rep's acting artistic director. "Trinity Rep is -- and has always been -- passionate about our commitment to student audiences. This grant will allow us to pursue this aspect of our mission in a wonderful way, forging partnerships with twenty-five underserved schools in our community."

Since its founding in 1964, Trinity Repertory Company has been one of the most respected regional theaters in the country. Featuring an acclaimed resident acting company, Trinity Rep presents a balance of world premiere, contemporary, and classic works, including an annual production of *A Christmas Carol* and the Trinity Summer Shakespeare Project, for an estimated annual audience of nearly 200,000. In its 41-year history, the theater has presented more than 50 world premieres. Project Discovery, Trinity Rep's pioneering educational outreach program launched in 1966, introduces 30,000 Rhode Island and Massachusetts students a year to live theater. Since 1973, Trinity Rep's home has been the Lederer Theater Center, a historic landmark built as the Majestic Theatre in 1917. With an annual budget of approximately \$8 million, the theater employs more than 130 artistic and administrative staff and annually generates more than \$24 million in economic activity. For more information, visit www.trinityrep.com.

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